



16214
12 May 2016

Mr. Timothy Johns, Chair
Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve
Daniel K. Inouye Pacific Regional Center
1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 176
Honolulu, HI 96818

Dear Mr. Johns:

I am pleased to report to you and the rest of the Council the following summary of U.S. Coast Guard Living Marine Resources (LMR) activities in the western and central Pacific Ocean for the period of January 1 to March 31, 2016.

During this period, our operational units conducted approximately 35 domestic and 15 international fishing vessel boardings, ensuring compliance among all fleets while ensuring to an equal playing field for our U.S. fishers.

From January 1st to March 31st Coast Guard aerial and surface units patrolled the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS) in support of Coast Guard District Fourteen Operation Kohola Guardian. During this three month operation, over 200 hours were dedicated to deter potential violations of the 100 yard approach rule. This operation also continued its multi-agency tradition through coordinated enforcement efforts with NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement and Hawaii's Department of Conservation and Resource Enforcement.

From January 27th to 28th CGC KITTIWAKE patrolled the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Hawaii. No foreign vessel incursions were detected.

From January 31st to February 2nd CGC GALVESTON ISLAND patrolled the U.S. EEZ of Hawaii. No foreign vessel incursions were detected.

From February 3rd to April 16th USS WILLIAM P. LAWRENCE supported the USN/USCG/NOAA Oceania Maritime Security Initiative while conducting fisheries law enforcement operations over a 10 day period on the high seas and the foreign EEZs of Nauru and the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI). During this patrol, a USCG law enforcement detachment, along with fisheries officers from Nauru and RMI, were on board the transiting ship. Thirty-five sightings were documented and eight at-sea boardings were conducted noting one potential violation of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) vessel monitoring system.

From February 26th through March 31st CGC KUKUI patrolled the U.S. EEZ of American Samoa and the foreign EEZ of Samoa with an embarked Samoa Fisheries Officer. Six at-sea boardings were conducted during this deployment including two WCPFC high seas and four bilateral shiprider boardings within Samoa's EEZ. No violations were noted.

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Coast Guard District Fourteen enforcement staff participated in several LMR related meetings during this reporting period. These meetings included the HIHWNMS advisory council, and the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. E. Howes, CDG". The signature is written in a cursive style.

R. E. Howes
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard
Chief, Enforcement Branch